

for responsible parents, decency on television and in the movies, and a crackdown on gangs. Reiterating themes he has often expressed in the past, he put heavy emphasis on working together as a community and reaching across the lines that divide us in order to find common ground and to make America work better. Again and again he said that the future can only be achieved by teamwork between Republicans and Democrats and between government and the private sector.

He spent remarkably little time talking about the protracted struggle over the budget, sounding at times as if the fight was already over. His eyes were clearly focused on the future and not the contentious and hostile battles going on with Congress. He did not lambast the Republicans, indeed he complimented their commitment to a balanced budget and took the high road throughout his speech.

The speech was significant in that it proposed few if any bold new initiatives and basically repeated calls the President has made in the past. He is clearly constrained by the fact that he has little money to play with and his emphasis on the limitations of government. The prominence of the traditional values of family and work were strong themes in his speech. A significant omission in the speech was any reference to his and the First Lady's problems with Whitewater.

#### PROTECTING AGAINST EXCESSES

I think the President sought to portray himself as a reasonable man who shared many of the goals of his political opponents but thought their means were too harsh. He conceded that government programs had become too costly and inefficient, but he did not abandon the fundamental obligations to the people who rely on Medicare and Medicaid, stating: "America cannot become stronger if they become weaker." I think the President is saying that he will cut back big government but he will do it compassionately, that he will keep many government programs but he will run them more efficiently.

#### CONCLUSION

The themes the President hit in his speech—limited government, an optimistic view of the future of America with great challenges and possibilities—hit responsive chords among Americans. In outlining the challenges to the country, the President for the most part chose not to attack his political opponents' positions but rather to emphasize common ground, and that also was well received. The key test for the President will be whether he is able to follow through on the themes and vision he laid out.

#### TRIBUTE TO OFFICER RUSSELL F. PITKIN

##### HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 1996*

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, in March, one of California's finest law officers will retire after 31 years of dedicated service. Russell F. Pitkin has been an integral part of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office for more than three decades, providing the kind of leadership and excellence that sets the standard for his peers.

During the course of his career, Mr. Pitkin participated in the 99th session of the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. A holder of a master's degree in public administration, he rose

from being a deputy sheriff to becoming undersheriff, and has served in every rank in the investigation division.

One of the highlights of his career came when he was involved in the felony investigation involving members of the Symbionese Liberation Army, which resulted in the arrest warrants for the kidnappers of Patty Hearst. His diligence in this effort was characteristic of his assiduous performance throughout his time in the sheriff's office.

The men and women who daily put their lives on the line for our safety and well-being are among the true heroes of our time. Russell Pitkin is one of the foremost of these heroes, and all Contra Costans owe him a debt of gratitude for all he has done to make the east bay the wonderful place it is. I am honored to recognize him today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and to wish him every success in his retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO H. E. AMBASSADOR SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY

##### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 1996*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Ambassador Siddhartha Shankar Ray, India's envoy to the United States. During his 4 years in the United States, Indo-United States relations significantly improved. Ambassador Ray's efforts on behalf of his nation helped to educate so many of us in the Congress about the important economic reforms currently being implemented in the world's largest democracy. A distinguished diplomat, gentleman, and friend, Ambassador Ray and his wife, Maya, will be missed in Washington.

Prior to coming to Washington, both Ambassador and Mrs. Ray had distinguished legal careers and both also served their nation as Members of Parliament. Immediately preceding his current post, Ambassador Ray served with distinction as Governor of Punjab. Those of us who closely follow events in South Asia fully recognize the challenges Ambassador Ray faced in Punjab. Despite the seemingly intractable problems in that region, Ambassador Ray left Punjab, as he now leaves Washington with an impressive list of accomplishments.

Mr. Ray was appointed Ambassador to the United States on October 10, 1992, with the rank of Federal Cabinet Minister. That appointment, at that level, demonstrates Prime Minister Rao's confidence in Ambassador Ray. As chairman of the House International Relations Committee, I fully agree that the Prime Minister's confidence was well-placed.

It was during Ambassador Ray's tenure in Washington that Prime Minister Rao addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress—the highest honor our Nation can convey upon a foreign dignitary. It was during Ambassador Ray's tenure in Washington that the United States and India moved beyond almost all of the difficulties of the cold war. The improved climate in Indo-United States relations can be tangibly measured by the number of high-level United States official visits to Washington.

It is with great regret that we bid farewell to Siddhartha and Maya Ray. We commend the

Ambassador and Mrs. Ray for their outstanding work in Washington and we wish them success in all of their future endeavors.

#### INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

##### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 1996*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in a very succinct and incisive interview with Middle East Insight president and editor George Nader in the magazine's 15th anniversary issue in December President Clinton articulated his vision for the future of the Middle East and for American interests in the region. The President said, "We want to see the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous region in which all nations and people can live in freedom and security."

Real progress made in the Middle East peace process under the Clinton administration has been unprecedented. As the Israeli-Syrian talks continue to move ahead, and our attention remains focused on further process toward lasting peace in the Middle East, I commend the entire interview to my colleagues.

[From Middle East Insight, November-December, 1995]

#### INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

(By George A. Nader)

In this 15th Anniversary issue, President Bill Clinton gives an exclusive interview about U.S. interests in the Middle East to Middle East Insight editor George A. Nader. This interview is a follow-up to President Clinton's first interview with Middle East Insight as President-elect.

President Clinton's term in office has been marked by historic agreements between Israel and the PLO, a formal peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, ongoing negotiations under U.S. auspices between Israel and Syria and Lebanon, and continued enforcement of dual containment of Iraq and Iran. President Clinton had developed a warm and productive relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before his assassination last November, and will now be working closely with his successor, Shimon Peres, on many vital areas of interest to the United States in the Middle East.

We are privileged to have President Clinton share his views below on these subjects as well as his vision for the future of the region.

Q: Mr. President, as spiral of violence in the Middle East, capped by the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, has challenged the peace process. What are your thoughts about the impact of this assassination on the state of the peace process?

A: The tragic death of Prime Minister Rabin was an attempt to stop the historic progress which has been made toward a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the reaction in Israel, the Middle East, and around the world to this crime demonstrates the marginalization of those who would use violence to achieve their ends and the overwhelming support which exists for the peace process. The world lost a great man and I—along with all Americans—a great friend in Yitzhak Rabin. A champion of his nation in conflict, he became a hero for reconciliation